

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 170

Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen

May 28, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 170—Relative to the Williamson Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 170, as introduced, Nielsen. Williamson Act.

This measure would recognize the 45th Anniversary of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, and would recognize the value to the state of agricultural land conservation contracts.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2117 by Assembly Member John
2 Williamson was signed into law on July 16, 1965, by Governor
3 Edmund G. “Pat” Brown; and
4 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2117 created the California Land
5 Conservation Act of 1965 that has become known nationwide as
6 the Williamson Act; and
7 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act has been California’s most
8 effective farm and ranch land preservation program, protecting
9 over 16.5 million acres or nearly one-third of all privately owned
10 land in California; and
11 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act promotes food security by
12 protecting the agricultural land base, encourages agricultural
13 support industries and jobs, complements other efforts to curb
14 sprawl while avoiding costly public facilities and support services

1 to scattered residential subdivisions, and promotes environmental
2 quality and resource values; and

3 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act achieves these broad public
4 policy goals with a cost-effective incentive-based program that
5 serves to protect the overall economy of the agricultural community
6 that exceeds \$100 billion and nearly half a million jobs generated
7 from the \$36.2 billion in farmgate value for the more than 400
8 California commodities produced; and

9 WHEREAS, The abundance from our state's 81,500 farms and
10 ranches produces nearly half of United States grown fruits, nuts,
11 and vegetables would be significantly less without the land use
12 protections of the Williamson Act; and

13 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act has served to facilitate the
14 intergenerational transfer of agricultural enterprises to young
15 farmers and ranchers; and

16 WHEREAS, The Williamson Act benefits the environment and
17 quality of life in other important ways by preserving open space
18 and wildlife habitat and protecting watersheds; now, therefore, be
19 it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
22 recognizes and celebrates the 45th Anniversary of the California
23 Land Conservation Act of 1965; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the State of California acknowledges and
25 appreciates the partnership with cities and counties as well as the
26 participating landowners who have made the Williamson Act the
27 most effective farm and ranch land and open space protection tool
28 in the history of California; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
30 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.